

## **AGENDA ITEM V**

### **REPORT ON CONDITIONALLY APPROVED PROGRAM**

#### **Louisiana Tech University**

#### **Ph.D. in Engineering**

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On August 27, 1998, the Board of Regents conditionally approved the Ph.D. program in Engineering at Louisiana Tech University, with the caveat that the University submit an annual progress report updating efforts to address weakness and problematic areas which external consultants identified. On August 26, 1999, the Board of Regents approved the 1998-1999 progress report required of this program. The staff analysis which follows addresses Louisiana Tech's 1999-2000 progress report.

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

Louisiana Tech University continues to take appropriate steps toward implementation of a quality Ph.D. program in Engineering. Currently, twenty-six students are enrolled. The program produced its first two graduates in May, 2000. Considerable resources have been allocated to the program, as evidenced by the fact that since program approval the College of Engineering has hired 18 new faculty with specific research interests in areas relevant to the program.

With regard to specific consultants' concerns, the following areas require additional attention during the upcoming year:

1. The University must continue aggressive efforts to attract additional faculty resources. The average load for Ph.D. faculty in 1999-2000 was around 11 credit hours which is good, but not optimal for a nationally competitive research Ph.D.
2. Final approval is still pending for the proposed new Promotion and Tenure Guidelines.
3. Continued efforts are needed to provide essential research support services.
4. Recent momentum in laboratory space acquisition and computational equipment upgrades should be maintained.
5. Additional areas of cooperation with Grambling State University should be investigated.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the 2000 report from Louisiana Tech University relative to implementation of the Ph.D. program in Engineering. The program, therefore, remains conditionally approved until the next University report due on June 1, 2001.***